

KNOWSLEY
MENAGERIE

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GLEANINGS

FROM

THE MENAGERIE

AND

Map Cas
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Smithsonian Institution
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GLEANINGS

FROM

THE MENAGERIE

AND

AVIARY

AT

KNOWSLEY HALL.

Gray, J. S.



KNOWSLEY:

1846.

[PRINTED FOR PRIVATE DISTRIBUTION.]

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P R E F A C E.

THE following Plates are selected from the series of Drawings made by Mr. EDWARD LEAR from the living animals in the Right Honourable the EARL OF DERBY'S Menagerie at Knowsley Hall, forming part of the large collections of Zoological Drawings in his Lordship's library. They have been lithographed with great care by Mr. J. W. MOORE, and coloured by Mr. BAYFIELD.

Their chief value consists in their being accurate representations of living specimens.

J. E. GRAY.

BRITISH MUSEUM,

August 1, 1846.

GLEANNINGS.

VITOE. *Nyctipithecus felinus*.

PLATE I.

Nyctipithecus felinus, Spix, Sim. Braz. t. 18.—Gray, List Mam. Brit. Mus. 1843, 14.

Cheirogaleus Commersonii, Vig. and Horsf., Zool. Journ.

Nyctipithecus Azarae, Wagner, Erich. Arch. 1843.

Maraquina, Azara.

INHABITS South America.

We have three very distinct species of this genus in the British Museum collection, viz. :

1. With short, close, yellowish grey fur, with three equal, narrow, elongated streaks on the head; which appears to be the *Simia trivirgata* of Humboldt, described from a specimen which had lost its external ears: hence it has been formed into a genus under the name of *Aotus*. Lesson has called the same species *N. Duruculi*, and Schinz, *N. Humboldtii*. It is the *N. trivirgatus* of the British Museum Catalogue, and probably the *N. vociferans* of Spix, and the Northern *Miriquina* of M. Natterer.

2. With short close fur, like the former, but of a darker colour, with two white and three black triangular spots on the forehead. This is the species here figured.

3. The species from Santa Fè de Bogota, which is rather yellowish grey, but with long, very dense fur, and with three indistinct blackish spots on the lower edge of the forehead. In the 'List of the Mammalia in the British Museum' I regarded it as a variety of the preceding species, but having procured another specimen, and examined others, from the same country, I am convinced it is a distinct species.

WHISKERED YARKE. *Pithecia rufiventer*.

PLATE II.

Pithecia pogonias, Gray, Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist., vol. x. p. 356 ; Zool. Voy. H. M. S. "Sulphur," Mammalia, t. ; List Mam. Brit. Mus. 1843, 13.

Pithecia rubiventer, I. Geoff. MSS. Mus. Paris, 1845.

THE species of Yarkes having been very much confused, I attempted to unravel them in the 'Zoology of the Voyage of H. M. S. Sulphur,' and gave figures of the more characteristic parts of the three species contained in the British Museum collection. Since the publication of that essay, on examining the Paris collection, I have found that the *Pithecia Monachus* of Geoffroy the elder, which has long been a riddle to zoologists, was established on a very young specimen of the species which I have described and figured in the 'Zoology of H. M. S. Sulphur' under the name of *P. irrorata*; the former name should in justice be reinstated. Professor Andrew Wagner, in Erichson's Archives for 1844, says that it is the same as the *P. hirsutus* of Spix; and as he resides in Munich, where Spix's specimen is preserved, probably his determination is right, though it disagrees in several particulars with both the figure and description of that author.

Dr. Andrew Wagner, in the same work for 1843, states that the species here figured is only a young male or female of *P. leucocephalus*, but this is evidently a mistake, as we have in the British Museum collection both sexes, and old and young of both species, and the Whiskered Yarke is not uncommon in collections of Brazilian animals sent to this country for sale.

RED MACAUCO. *Lemur rufus*.

PLATE III.

Lemur rufus, Audeb. Makis, 12. fig. 2.—*Cop.* Schreb. Saugth. t. 39 c.—Geoff. Ann. Mus. xix. 160.

INHABITS Madagascar.

This is one of the most distinct species of this very difficult genus. It appears to be doubtful, if great part of the difficulty in distinguishing the various specimens from one another, does not arise from the species breeding together with facility.

YAGOUARONDI. *Leopardus Yagouarondi*.

PLATE IV.

Felis Yagouarondi, Lacép.—Griffith, A. K. t. 86. f. 2.—Darwin, Zool. Beagle, 16. t. 8.

Felis Darwinii, Martin, Proc. Zool. Soc. 1837, 3.

Leopardus Yagouarondi, Gray, Cat. Mamm. Brit. Mus. 42.

THIS is the tropical representative of the Puma.

This species, though it appears to be simply grised by the pale tips to the hairs, when viewed in an oblique direction shows distinct indications of spots, and like the Puma and other plain-coloured Felinæ, is distinctly spotted when first born, the spots becoming more indistinct when the fur is first changed.

The white band across the sides of the loins, which was so distinctly exhibited in this specimen, appears to be formed by some peculiar arrangement of the hair, as it was only visible when the animal was sitting erect.

The *Eyra* (*Felis Eyra*, Desm.) is much smaller, pale red, and not grised.

BANDED MUNGOUS. *Mungos fasciatus*.

PLATE V.

Viverra Mungo, Kæmpf. Amœn. Exot. 574. f. 567.

Viverra Ichneumon, Schreber, Saugth. t. 116, from Mangouste de l'Inde, Buffon, Hist. Nat. xiii. t. 19.

Herpestes fasciatus, Desm. Dict. Sci. Nat. xxix. 58.

Herpestes zebra, Ruppell, Fauna Abyss. t. 9. f. 2.

Ryzæna Suricata, Children in Clapperton's Travels, App.

Mungos fasciatus, Gray, Cat. Mam. Brit. Mus. 50.

INHABITS Africa.

M. de Buffon believed that his specimen was found in India. It is a native of Africa, and appears to have a very extensive distribution in that country. Dr. Ruppell found it in Abyssinia; Captain Clapperton at Lake Tschad; Dr. A. Smith and Mr. Burke in the interior of South Africa; Colonel Perronet Thompson in Sierra Leone; and Mr. Whitfield brought the specimen here figured from the Gambia.

JELERUNG OR JAVAN SQUIRREL. *Sciurus Javensis*.

PLATE VI.

Sciurus Javensis, Schreb. Saugth. 781. t. 216.

Sciurus Madagascariensis, Shaw, Zool. 9, 128.

Sciurus bicolor, Sparmann, Vet. Selsk. Handl. i. 70.—Horsf. Z. R. Java.

Sciurus bergmaricus, MacClelland MSS.

Javan Squirrel, Pennant, Quad. 409.

Ecureuil de Madagascar, Buffon, H. N. Supp. vii. 243. t. 63.

INHABITS India, Java.

This is one of the examples of the large flat-tailed, round-eared Squirrel of India and the islands of the Indian Archipelago, which, like the larger squirrels of the American Continent, are most difficult to separate from one another; for according to the number of specimens which come under observation, one is at one time inclined to regard them as several very distinct species, and at others, as all accidental varieties of the same: but certainly, the specimens which come from the same locality are generally very similar, and the change of the colours of the surface of the fur is sometimes only produced by the change in the colour of the tips of the hairs.

QUEBEC MARMOT OR WEENUSK. *Arctomys Empetra*.

PLATE VII.

Mus Empetra, Pallas, Glir. 75.

Arctomys Empetra, Schreb. Saugth. t. 210.—Rich, N. J. 147. t. 9.—Sabine, Linn. Trans., vol. xiii. p. 384.

Arctomys melanopus, Kuhl, Beitr. 64.

Arctomys Marmotta Canadensis, Kuhl, Beitr. 64.

Arctomys niger, I. Geoff. MSS. Mus. Paris.

Glis Canadensis, Erxl. Syst. 363.

Monax Glis, F. Cuv. Mam. Lithog. t. .

Arctomys Monax, Audub. Mam. N. Amer. t. 3.

Quebec Marmot, Penn. Syn. 270.—Quad. 397. t. 41. f. 2.

INHABITS North America, Canada.

EYEBROWED GUAN. *Penelope superciliaris*.

PLATE VIII.

Penelope superciliaris, Illiger, Wagler, Isis, 1830, 1110.

Salpiza superciliaris, Wagler.

Penelope Jacu-pemba, Spix, N. S. Av. Braz. 7. t. 72.

INHABITS Tropical America.

PILEATED GUAN. *Penelope pileata*.

PLATE IX.

Penelope pileata, Lichtenstein, Wagler, Isis, 1830, 1110.

Salpiza pileata, Wagler.—Gray, Cat. Birds Brit. Mus. ii. 19.

INHABITS Tropical America.

The Earl of Derby in his Notes remarks on these birds and the Curassows:—

“One species of Guan, of which we do not know the name, but a small brown kind, has laid with us, and we reared three young about five years back. Thompson thinks the young lived till the following season: we have some of the same kind now.”—July 21, 1846.

“As to CURASSOWS, we have bred them several times, and I have one young one of this year, but I rather think they have all been of the same kind, viz. *C. globicera*.”—July 21, 1846.

“We have two young Curassows, *C. globicera*, and some eggs, both of that kind and of the *Pauxi*. I wish these last may succeed.”

“We have lost the young Cushew bird.”

“The skin of the *Gallina di Monte* (*Oreophasis Derbyanus*, G. R. Gray, Genera of Birds, t.) was given by Mr. Klee, a gentleman of Guatemala and a friend of Mr. Skinner's, to my collector Bates for me, and it was the only bird of the kind that Bates saw in the country, though he heard much of them; nor do I know with certainty whether my specimen be male or female, though I suspect the former.”—1844.

PIPING GUAN. *Penelope pipile*.

PLATE X.

Crax pipile, Jacq. Beitr. z. Gesch. der Vogel, t. 11.

Penelope pipile, Gmel.

Penelope leucolophus, Merr.

Penelope Jacatinga, Spix, N. S. Av. Braz. t. 70.

INHABITS Tropical America.

PURPLISH GUAN. *Penelope purpurascens*.

PLATE XI.

Penelope purpurascens, Wagler.

INHABITS Tropical America.

AMERICAN EMU. *Rhea Americana*.

PLATE XII.

Struthio Rhea, Linn. Syst. Nat.

Rhea Americana, Lath.—Vieill. Gal. Ois. t. 225.

INHABITS the East Coast of South America.

Until lately it was believed that there was only a single species of American Ostrich; but Mr. Darwin, in a letter to Professor Henslow, states that he was led, by the account he heard from the natives, to believe that the kind found in Chili differed from those which inhabited the plains of the east coast; and specimens of different ages which have lately been received from Mr. Bridges and deposited in the British Museum collection, prove the truth of this idea.

The following are extracts from Lord Derby's Notes:—

“The six Rheas of last year are doing well, though one has somehow lost an eye.”—May 16, 1845.

“The Rhea has begun to lay.”—May 23, 1845.

“My Rhea eggs have hatched ill this year; out of twenty-six, twenty-three proved bad, and the other three had dead birds in them. But I have three later still to hatch: I hope they may prove more lucky.”—Sept. 18, 1845.

“My Rheas have laid about thirty eggs.”

“Out of my new young Rheas we hope *certainly* to succeed (accidents barred) with six of them. My young Rheas are progressing well.”

“The Rhea has laid about forty eggs, but no incubation yet.”—July 2, 1846.

“The *Rhea Americana* has bred here twice, and at this moment I have, I believe, upwards of forty eggs, laid partly, I believe, by those bred here.”—July 21, 1846.

“My African Ostrich has laid four eggs.”—1846.

“My Emu is sitting on fourteen eggs, and we have one Rhea egg.”—May 31, 1845.

“My female Emu has laid about twenty eggs, but still the male shows no symptoms of sitting.”—April 9, 1846.

“It is rather provoking our Emu will not sit, while at Wentworth their male is wanting to sit and has no egg. John thinks of sending our eggs to them. Would you advise this?”

“My only doubt about sending the Emu eggs to be hatched by the Wentworth male is, whether the carriage might not spoil them.”

WATTLED CROWN CRANE. *Balearica regulorum*.

PLATE XIII.

Grus regulorum, Lichtenstein.

Balearica regulorum, G. R. Gray, Cat. Birds Brit. Mus. 7, 75.

INHABITS South Africa.

This species is easily known from the common Crowned Crane of Northern and Western Africa by the colour of the cheeks and the size of the throat wattle.

The Crown Cranes are separated from the other Cranes by the structure of their nostrils; indeed the nostrils appear to form one of the best characters for the separation of the Wading Birds into natural groups, as I attempted to prove in the arrangement of them published in the ‘Synopsis of the British Museum for 1840.’

“The Crowned or Numidian Cranes have never bred here, or even paired, I believe.”—July 21, 1846.

STANLEY CRANE. Scops Paradisea.

PLATE XIV.

Ardea Paradisea, Licht. Cat. (1793) 28.

Tetrapteryx Capensis, Thunberg, 1818.

Anthropoides Stanleyanus, Vigors, Zool. Journ. vi. t. 8.

INHABITS South Africa.

This bird was first described by M. Lichtenstein, the father of the African traveller, in the catalogue of his collection, and introduced by Bechstein into his translation of Latham's 'Synopsis of Birds.' It was afterwards formed into a peculiar genus by the celebrated Thunberg; but their description having escaped the researches of Mr. Vigors, he described it as a new species, and gave the first figure of it in the 'Zoological Journal,' as above cited.

It is the most elegant bird of the family of Cranes, so peculiar for the grace and lightness of their movements, and is at once known from the Demoiselle of India by its superior size and the length of the plumes over the tail.

Lord Derby in his Notes observes:—

"I possessed for some years several individuals of that species of the genus *Anthropoides* which my late friend Dr. Latham had done me the honour to distinguish by my name, in consequence of my having had the good fortune first to draw his attention to the bird, which I had seen in the Tower of London, then under the care of Mr. Cops, but not one of them had ever shown any signs of a chance of breeding, until, in the year 1843, my superintendent Thompson thought he saw in two of them an inclination to pair, and he immediately determined to separate them from all others of the same kind, in a small paddock behind his own house, in which were the Elands and some large fowls. The plan succeeded, for in the next year (1844) the hen laid seven eggs, but scattered about in different parts of the paddock, without any appearance of a nest. From this circumstance I entertained little, if any, expectation of any good being derived from them, but we decided to put them into the hatching-machine, and the result was, that while six out of the seven proved barren, the seventh produced a chicken, which however was always delicate and lived but a very short time, not above two or three days. The system of seclusion was continued, and in the spring of 1845 she laid five eggs, which Thompson placed at first under a Turkey, but not considering her a sufficiently good nurse, when the period of hatching drew near, he took them from her and put them under a large Hen, of a somewhat Indian breed. Two of the five proved addle; the other three had birds in them, of which the third died in the shell; but two were hatched, and far from showing any disposition to remain in the nest and be fed, they from the first took to their legs, and followed the example of so many Chickens or Partridges, actively running about and picking up the food thrown to them, and even taking it from the hand. They appeared to go on very well for some short time; but in about a week or ten days, I think, one of them was found one morning to be suffering apparently from cramp, for it could not stand on its legs, though it fed very well; but though every attention was paid to it, it never recovered its powers, and died at about The other continued strong and healthy, and grew very rapidly in size, and I trusted we might have succeeded in finally rearing that one; but at last, a short time before its companion's death, it also became ill, and survived its fellow but very little. I had them both preserved, and all three now form portions of my museum. The same attempt will be continued with the same pair next season, and a second pair are already separated after the same plan, when I trust, with one or the other, we may be more fortunate than we have yet been, especially if the next season should be more favourable than the two last have been."

"One of my young Stanley Cranes is going on well, and I am told is much grown, but the other has been for some days laid up by cramp and cannot stand, but still feeds well."—Sept. 18, 1845.

"My young Cranes still both exist, but one I fear we shall never rear: the other is a fine bird and grows fast. They are now between three and six weeks old, and one at least getting into pen-feathers, and commencing the change of the body, getting more grey and the head becoming paler."

"The Stanley Cranes have certainly bred with us, but I rather think that hitherto it has been always the same pair, which has now, I may say, bred three years. In the first I think only one was hatched; last year two were reared till about half-grown, as you may see in Hawkins's Drawings, which comprise those two, from the life, in two states of growth, the single one of the former year from the Museum, and the egg. This year the same pair have laid six eggs certainly, if not more, but none have as yet been hatched."—July 21, 1846.

MANED GOOSE. *Chenalopex jubata*.

PLATE XV.

Anas jubata, Spix, N. S. Av. Braz. ii. t. 168.

Anas polycomus, Lesson, Trait. d'Orn.

Chenalopex jubata, Wagler.—Gray, Cat. Birds Brit. Mus. 126.

INHABITS Tropical America.

These birds breed freely at Knowsley. On the approach of a stranger they have the habit of raising their bodies nearly erect, swelling out their breasts, and flapping their wings against the legs of the intruder. They sometimes bend themselves backwards to such an extent, that they appear as if they would fall on their backs.

The following observations on the breeding of Water-fowl at Knowsley are extracted from Lord Derby's Notes:—

“The Orenoco Goose has laid eight eggs, which are set.”—May 24, 1844.

“You will be glad to hear that my eight young Orenoco Goslings are all doing well. You will find it figured in Lear's drawing, who was much amused by its manner of swelling out the breast like a Pouter Pigeon, which he has represented. I have had them before, but these are the first pair that have ever bred with us.”—June 11, 1844.

“The Maned, or as we call it the Orenoco Goose, has bred with us, and one year they hatched eight eggs; but before the next season the old gander killed his mate, and since then neither he nor any of his progeny have bred or paired as far as I know. One pair of the young ones were sent last year to Her Majesty, but as far as I hear they also have been unproductive.”—July 21, 1846.

“The Waterfowl are beginning to breed: one Sandneck has hatched four out of five eggs; one Black Swan two, all she had. My Thoulouse Geese are both sitting, one on twelve, another on ten eggs; a Canada hen, three eggs; and a Chinese Goose, eight; other things going on well.”—May 1845.

“My Carolina Ducks have laid well; about thirty-five eggs. I trust they will hatch well.”

“We think the Eiders have paired, but as yet no egg.”—May 16, 1845.

“Our Eiders too are supposed to have paired, but no eggs are yet laid there. I fear our Java Teal have been prevented by the outbreak of the pond, and the consequent bustle in that vicinity.”—May 19, 1845.

“We have hatched three or four Goslings from a hybrid male (between the White-fronted and Bernicle) with the female of the first. John says it is a third cross, I call it a second; but at all events, how does this fact square with the principle, that mules are barren; or if not, that the fact proves the parents to be the same identical species? Surely the Bernicle and White-fronted Geese cannot be said to be identical in species, any more than the Dshygetai and Zebra and Burchell's Zebra; but the first has copulated with his own daughter by the last: whether she will produce is yet to be seen.”—May 24, 1844.

“But they have been unlucky with the Thoulouse Geese, only hatching five out of twenty-two eggs.”—May 16, 1845.

“Twelve young summer Ducks, and ten of *Anas obscura*. The Javanese Teal has not bred.”—May 31, 1845.

“We have fifteen Penguin Ducks hatched, and one Canada Gosling out of five eggs; nine young Silver Pheasants earlier than usual, but no advantage, as the birds are earlier than the insects.”

“My Black Swans are proceeding famously: a pair I have on the Kennel Dam bred late in last year, and out of six eggs hatched four cygnets, of which one died, and the remaining three are now about four months old. They are of course still with the mother, who however has now six more eggs, and is beginning to sit again. Pretty quick, laying twelve eggs in less than twelve months.”—March 10, 1846.

“I shall have a sight for you that you will think interesting: several of my West African birds, in the place appropriated to the smaller Insessores, have taken to breeding in considerable numbers, and some have actually young ones at this moment. They are chiefly, I am told (for I have not seen them, as I cannot get there), of the Weaver kind, but I am not aware that such have ever bred in this country before. You were much pleased with the drawing of the nest of the *Ploceus*, but I am sorry to tell you, the stock raised has not been over-successful. Of the whole number of nests, near fifty I believe in all, not more than six or seven young were hatched, and of these but one now survives, and that a very weakly thing. The time of year is very much against them, and I fear there is not much likelihood of their altering their natural habits, and accommodating their breeding-time to the new climate they are brought to.”—Jan. 31, 1844.

EYEBROWED ROLLULUS. *Rollulus superciliosus*.

PLATE XVI.

INHABITS India ?

This interesting species has not hitherto been described. It forms a peculiar section in the genus, which may be characterized by the small size and slenderness of the beak, and the absence of the occipital crest.

The male is dark olive, beneath dark bluish grey; cheeks and underpart of head black; forehead and streak over the orbits and on the side of the cheek white; vent blackish white-spotted; beak and feet yellow.

The female brown; feathers of the side of the crown and upper part of the body with an ovate acute black spot near the middle of the end; bill and feet yellow.

The following remarks on the breeding of Gallinaceous Birds at Knowsley are extracted from Lord Derby's Notes:—

“We have about eighty-five Silver and about as many Gold Pheasants hatched.”—1845.

“I have a Silver and a Gold Hen Pheasant, both sitting on her own eggs, laid out wild.”—May 23, 1845.

“My Argus Pheasant went off in a fit yesterday, and died.”—March 1, 1846.

“In one of your recent notes you expressed a wish to have some of our casualties, in case I did not require them for myself; and as you have also taken an interest in my Firebacks, you will be glad to know that the first two eggs of this season which have been set have each proved fruitful, and I have now one very promising young chick, which is going on quite well. They were hatched on Sunday, but one has died, as we believe, trodden on by the nurse. These were among your desiderata; and as I have both the egg and chicken already, I have directed John to send this dead one up to you. These are not, I believe you are aware, the first that have been hatched, as we succeeded in bringing out some few last year, but they all died. I trust now we shall succeed in rearing this, and we have eight more eggs to come out still, which we have good hopes from. You probably recollect that I have but one hen and two cocks, but I cannot feel at all assured that these latter are both of the same kind, though certainly very nearly allied, if they are different. We thought at first that the differences were from age, but they both continue without change as they were at first.”

“I am sorry that I have very bad news to communicate to you: yesterday we lost the streak-sided male of the Firebacks very suddenly, and in rather an odd way. You will recollect, perhaps, that they were stationed in a part divided off from another portion of the New Aviary, in which were some of our Curasows and other Gallinaceous birds. It is supposed that he had been fighting at some of them through the partition, and so furiously, that he tore off his spurs, and died in a very short time. The female has laid two eggs; and though the other male still remains, I cannot help fearing this will cause great interruption to our hopes and to her going on properly. This is sadly provoking.”—May 19, 1845.

“Of the Fireback we have seven eggs set, for she has laid since the old cock's death, and is on very good terms with the remaining male.”—May 23, 1845.

“I trust the Firebacks will breed: we have now eight eggs, and seven of them set already; besides which, recollect, we have still the other smaller cock, with which the hen breeds as well as with her late larger mate.”—May 31, 1845.

“You will also I hope have received a young Fireback Pheasant, as all my four have very recently died blind. I kept a pair for myself, and have sent for the British Museum one of the males: they were beginning, you will see, to advance towards the dress of age, and what I sent you before was only a chick.”

“We have also some Fireback eggs under incubation, but these are got by the smaller male, your brown-sided. Will there be a cross between the two species, or are the three adult birds only two varieties?”—June 6, 1845.

“You will be glad to know that the young Firebacks are doing beautifully. We have now, I think, four living out of five hatched, only one having died. One will be three weeks old tomorrow, two a fortnight, and one a week. The cock you call the brown-sided is the one we have bred from this year, and he seems to have done his duty well, as we may say but one egg has proved addle or dead in shell out of ten, certainly out of six, and we know there are chicks in those still under incubation.”—July 13, 1845.

“My Firebacks have this year laid fourteen eggs, of which five have been set, in every one of which there was a young one. Of these I have two very promising chicks, but the last three have been all dead in the shell.”—July 2, 1846.

“I have been with John today, instead of going to the course, inspecting our stock, and find we have now five young Firebacks of this year, but one is a cripple or is cramped, and the others all promise well.”—July 16, 1846.

“We have now four young Firebacks living of this year, besides two young cocks of last season.”—July 21, 1846.

“I received last night a letter from a friend in Belize, who has, by an Indian whom he despatched for the purpose into the country where the *Meleagris ocellata* chiefly dwells, succeeded in procuring four living

specimens, of which two are stated to be fine healthy birds; the other two were weakly, and from the necessary exposure to wet and confinement, &c. were seized with blindness, and one of them had died. My friend doubts the other ever recovering its eyesight, but he trusts the two will survive, to be sent in due time to England. He had however determined, and I think wisely, not to risk their voyage before April next, when he will send them by some careful captain, either to Liverpool, if possible, or if not, to London; as if sent in the winter they would have no chance of coming safe, owing to the severe north winds which prevail on these coasts. I certainly do not feel confident at all as yet, but I am delighted, as I think there is now a better chance than I have ever had of possessing these beauties in life. I do not know what sexes these birds are, or aught more than I have told you, but I shall in consequence postpone at least the idea I had in contemplation, of letting Bates go again and make another attempt."—1844.

"As you are interested in the *Meleagris*, I may as well tell you I have heard from Mr. Skinner, who has lately gone out again to Belize, who says that the first thing he saw on landing was a fine male, strutting about Mr. Thompson's yard with his poultry, in good health but wofully mutilated in plumage. Mr. Thompson, thinking they would be happier together, put my two surviving birds: in this way they quarreled, and one only remains, which Mr. Skinner has advised to be sent off by a sailing rather than a steam-vessel, and I imagine it is now on its route. I shall however relinquish the hope of introducing this bird, on account of its fierce disposition; but I must try to obtain the female and young, dead or alive."—Feb. 18, 1844.

"I am glad to tell you Dyson has brought a specimen of *Mel. ocellata* home, which is now, I am glad to say, doing well here; but by what I hear of it (for till today our weather has not permitted me to get to the Aviary), I am much afraid it will turn out to be a female, and of course the idea of a breed must be abandoned, unless some one else shall be hereafter lucky enough to bring me a mate for her."—Oct. 5, 1845.

"I am glad to tell you I have had a letter from Mr. Skinner, which has actually restored in some degree my almost extinguished hopes of the male *Mel. ocellata*."

"We meditate trying my Honduras female with a true male American Turkey. The Honduras Turkey has laid about thirteen eggs, but her first were not good."

"The *versicolor* Pheasant egg laid by the hen before it died on the passage is very small, and rather duller in colour even than our common Pheasant."

"The *Phasianus versicolor* here is so like the *P. Colchicus*, that I shall try to cross my male with some of our common Hens, for fear of losing him by any sudden accident; or perhaps the Bohemian Hen might answer better for the cross."

"The Bohemian Hen, put to the male *Phasianus versicolor*, has laid, but it is doubtful if the egg is by him."

"The egg laid by the *Phasianus versicolor* Hen on her journey from Amsterdam, and also that laid by the Bohemian Hen which we put to the male since their arrival here, have both proved bad."—July 2, 1846.

"My Double-spurred Partridge, brought by Whitfield from W. Africa, has laid three eggs, and one of the others has hatched today."—May 31, 1845.

"Of my young *Perdix Clappertonii* we have lost but one, having seven still doing well, but of course we know not what sex."

"The old pair of *Perdix Clappertonii*, which hatched eight young last year, all now alive, has this year produced five more. None of those of last year have yet bred. I have now thirteen, and gave a pair to Sir R. Heron."—June 23, 1844.

"I am glad certainly that the *Perdix Clappertonii* has been prolific again, but I would rather this produce should have come from some of those bred last year, than from the original importation."—June 25, 1846.

"I find too that some of the *Ortyges* brought by Bates have bred and hatched, but I fear it is a cross; at any rate, this is too late in the year to hope to rear them, but we will try."

"My young hybrid Quails, or rather *Ortyges*, are still progressing well."

"We have two other *Ortyges* now laying, but one of them is the same as laid last year, having crossed with another species, so that it will be a cross-breed; she then laid four eggs and hatched one, which I believe is still living."—Jan. 26, 1845.

"John has just come in with two young *Odontophori*, just hatched, out of three eggs, but we have about eight more of them to come out. I do not know the species. They were brought to me by Bates from Central America, and are evidently very nearly allied to, but certainly not identical with, *P. Guianensis* of Gould."—Jan. 26, 1845.

"The two young that my larger *Ortyges* have produced do not progress so well as we could wish, but we have two of the hybrid breed, such as those bred last year, that are all doing quite well, and seem hardier than the large kind."

"I flatter myself that I have now succeeded in establishing the Black Grouse in the woods here, and I have good hopes of the Prairie Hen, *T. cupedo*. I mean to try hereafter others if I can get them, especially the Ruffed Grouse."—1844.

"My Prairie Hen has laid thirteen eggs, of which eleven are set, and the Ruffed Grouse have begun to lay."—May 16, 1845.

"Both the Prairie Hen and Ruffed Grouse have laid about fourteen eggs each, some of which are set, and I hope will do well."—May 19, 1845.

"One young Ruffed Grouse has been hatched."—May 31, 1845.

"The eight Ruffed Grouse are all together and going on well."—July 13, 1844.

"I have not heard as yet any news of the Grey Hen's nest; but though the cocks are constantly seen, the hens have not been for some time, so it is hoped they are sitting."—May 19, 1845.

"I have some Ruffed Grouse, and have turned some out, but probably too late for their breeding, as I have not heard of that in any one instance, though I know that some have continued to be seen about, and I hope we shall yet succeed."—1843.

"My Black Game I fear have taken to wandering, as I have heard of a hen having been killed on Lord Sefton's property, at some distance, which had evidently, from the state of its breast, &c., been sitting; but she was alone, and with no other appearance of a nest anywhere around. She was killed by the scythe. In one other instance at home here she was disturbed and forsook the eggs, which were set, but in vain, not having been removed soon enough. I am not without hopes."—1843.

"A line today from Thompson tells me the female *Tinamus* has only laid one solitary egg: I will however try whether it may prove fertile."

"I shall certainly tell Thompson to try to hatch the *Tinamus* egg, even if she lays no more."

"Some few years back I was stating, in the presence of Mr. Audubon, that in my Aviary the Passenger Pigeon (*Ectopistes migratoria* of Swains.) never had but one young one in a nest; at which Mr. Audubon seemed much surprised and rather doubtful, asserting that the species in its own country, like other Pigeons, produced two, and he therefore seemed to think there was some mistake in my tale. On talking with my man Thompson on such matters this night, I asked him how the case really stood with us; when he again confirmed my first impression, adding, that these birds cannot well have more than one young, as he had never known more than one egg, but that they bred remarkably quick, as the female generally began a new nest when the young was three or four days old: in these cases the old male attended and fed the young bird, and sometimes also incubated it; in which case the female brought it food until it was fledged."—April 8, 1846.

EYED TYRSE. Tyrse Argus.

PLATE XVII.

Tyrse Argus, Gray, Cat. Rept. Brit. Mus. ii. 48.

INHABITS Western Africa.

This very interesting new species of soft Turtle lived for some time in the pond in Knowsley Park, and at its death it was kindly presented to the British Museum, and described in the Catalogue of the Tortoises, Crocodiles and Amphisbæneans in that collection. It was brought home by Mr. Whitfield.

It is easily known from the soft Turtles of the Nile by the black-edged yellow streaks on the side of the head, and the numerous eyed spots on the back. The latter species has been well figured from life in Mr. Bell's beautiful work on Tortoises, under the name of *Trionyx labiatus*.



E. Lear del.

L. W. Moore lithog.

VITOE.—NYCTIPITHECUS INFULATUS.

Hullmandel & Walton Lithographers



L. W. Moore lithog.

WHISKERED YARKE.—*PITHECIA RUFIGASTER*.

Hallman del. & Walen lithog. sculp.

F. Leach del.



E. Lear del. Decr 1838.

I.W. Moore lithog.

RED MACAURO.-LEMUR RUFUS.

Hollmandel & Walton. Lithographers



E. Lear del.

J.W. Moore lithog.

YAGOUARONDI.—LEOPARDUS YAGOUARONDI.

Hallmandel & Walton Lithographers.

J.W. Moore lithog.

BANDED MINGOUS.—MINGOS FASCIATUS.

Hallamada & Walton, lithographers.

E. Leach del.





E. Leach del.

J.W. Moore lithog.

IFLERANG OR JAVAN SQUIRRELL. — *SCIURUS JAVENSIS*

Hallman del. & Walton lithograph.



E. Lear del.

L.W. Moore lithog.

QUEBEC MARMOT. — ARCTOMYS EMPETRA.

Hullmandel & Walton Lithographers.



EYEBROWED GUAN. — PENELOPE SUPERCILIARIS.

Hallward & Watson, lithographers.

IWM Moore lithog

E. Lear del.



PILEATED GURN — PENELOPE PILEATA.

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J.W. Moore lithog.

J.W. Moore lithog.

PIPING GUAN. -- PENELOPE PIPILE

Hullmandel & Walton Lithographers.

F. Leavell del



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PURPLE GUAN -- PENELOPE PURPURASCENS.

Hillmandel & Walton Lithographers.



J. Lear del.



Edw. ad.

J.W. Moore lithog.

AMERICAN EMU. — RHEA AMERICANA.

Hulmandel & Walton Lithographers

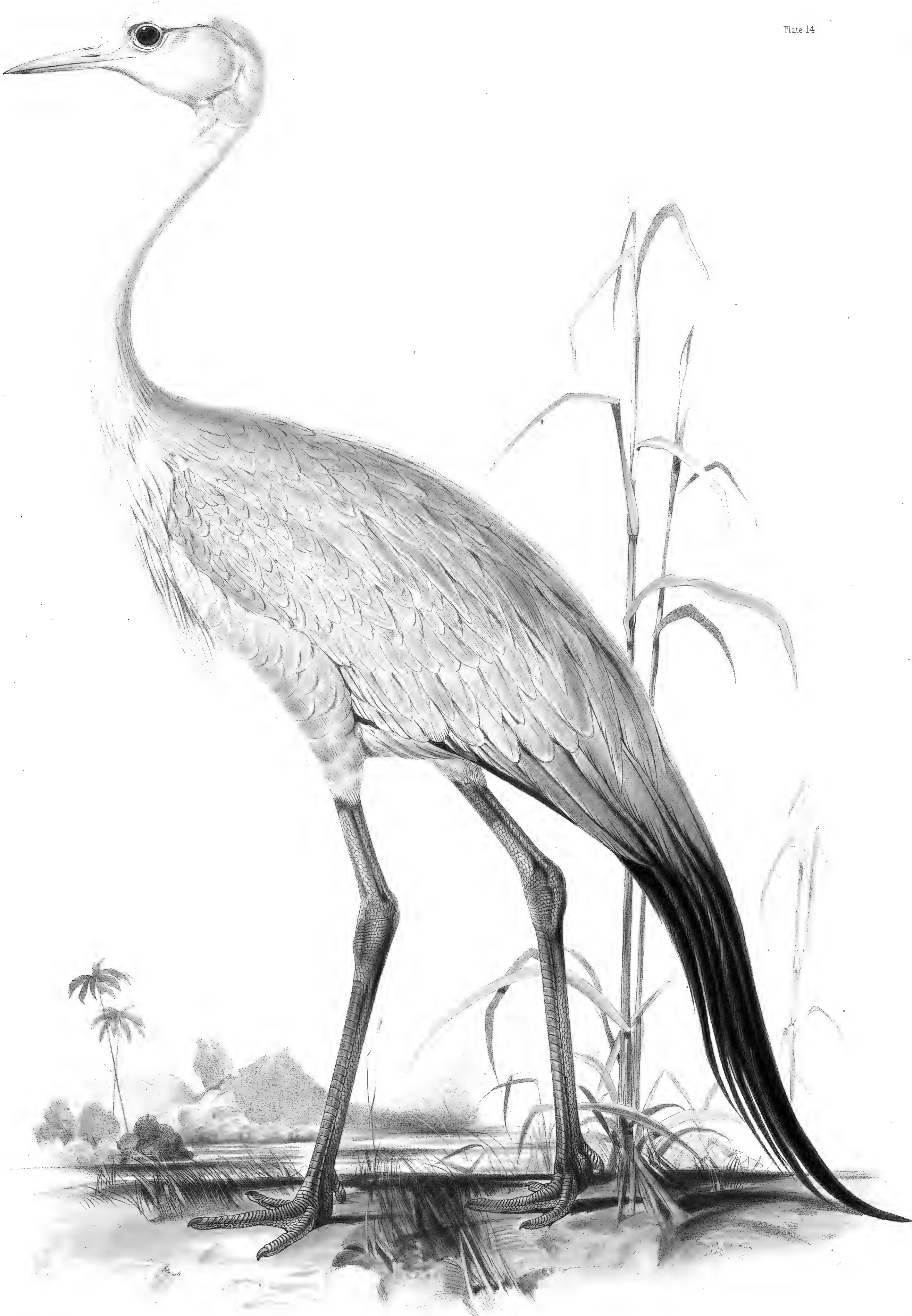


E. Lear del.

WATTLED CROWN CRANE BALEARICA REGULORUM

J.W. Moore lithog.

Hulmandel & Walton Lithographers.



In Lithom by D. Mitchell.

MANED GOOSE.—CHENALOEPEX JUBATA.

Hallman & Walton Lithographers



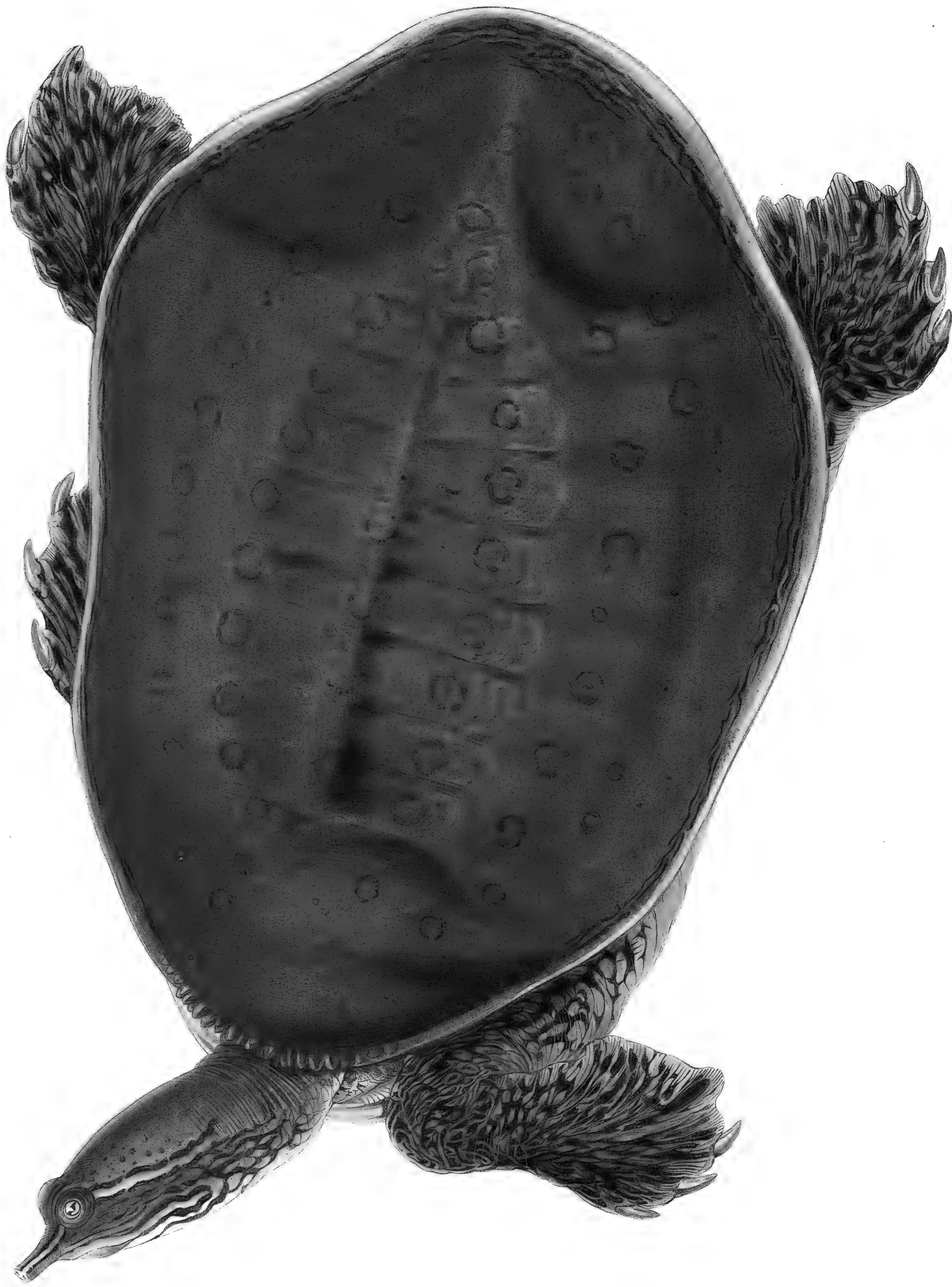
E. Lear del



J. W. Moore delin.

Printed by Hulmandel & Walton.

EYEBROWED ROLLULUS. — ROLLULUS SUPERCILIOSUS.



Printed by Hullmaudel & Walton.

J. W. Moore lithog.

EYED TYRSE. — TYRSE ARGUS.

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